

REMARKS

The applicants note with appreciation the acknowledgement of the claim for priority under section 119 and the notice that all of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

The applicants acknowledge and appreciate receiving an initialed copy of the form PTO-1449 that was filed on 26 September 2003.

Claims 1-5, 11, 15-17, and 21-31 are pending. Claims 6-10, 12-14, and 18-20 have been canceled. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 15-18 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by the patent to Sidles et al. (hereinafter, Sidles). The applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons.

Claims 10 and 20 were said to be allowable if written in independent form. The subject matter of claim 10 has been added to claim 1, and the subject matter of claim 20 has been added to claim 16. Therefore, claims 1 and 16 and their dependents are considered to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 6-9 and 19 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sidles in view of Farber et al. Claims 6-9 and 19 have been canceled. Therefore, this rejection will not be discussed.

Claims 11-14 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sidles in view of Iuchi. Claim 11 depends on claim 1 and is considered to be in condition for allowance

based on its dependency on claim 1, which is discussed above. Claims 12-14 have been canceled, and their rejection will therefore not be discussed.

Claims 21-31 are new. New independent claim 21 is a combination of original claims 1 and 5. New independent claim 29 is a combination of original claims 16 and 17. New claims 22 to 28 correspond to original claims 2-5, 9, 10 and 15, respectively. New claims 30 and 31 correspond to original claims 18 and 20, respectively.

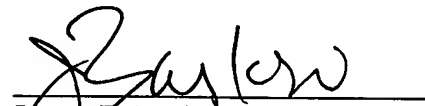
New claims 21 and 29 are directed to a method for manufacturing a molded product in which the cavity is depressurized to a pressure at which the solvent boils, or vaporizes. The depressurization of the cavity causes not only lowering of the boiling point of the solvent contained in the first liquid but also evacuation of the vaporized solvent from the cavity. The Sidles patent fails to disclose or suggest depressurizing a cavity, which stores a liquid, to lower the boiling point of the liquid. In Sidles, the cavity is merely heated to a temperature above the boiling point of the liquid when the mold is closed. See column 3, lines 34-39 and 44-48. Therefore new claims 21 and 29 and their dependents are considered to be patentably distinct from the Sidles patent.

In addition, the Sidles patent fails to disclose or suggest lowering of the boiling point of a solution stored in a cavity to form a layer on the surface of the cavity. The Sidles patent specifically teaches that the heating of the mold is performed while closing the mold cavity. The heating of the mold increases pressure in the cavity. This is contrary to the subject matter of new claims 21 and 29. There would be no motivation for a person skilled in the art to combine the teaching of Sidles et al. with a prior art reference that suggests lowering the boiling point of a liquid stored in a cavity, because doing so would be against the teachings of the Sidles patent.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Please charge any unforeseen fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,


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